

Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Prepared: 8/7/14
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P.O. Box 1520
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DOB: 05/05/09 Race: W Gender: M

Type of Report: X Fatality ___ Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 7/24/12

Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 7/24/12

Summary of Allegations: On 7/24/12, SCDSS received a report indicating the minor child was pronounced dead at the hospital after his mother found him in the family swimming pool. The reporter stated the mother was home alone with the 3 minor children and was the sole caretaker at the time of incident. The reporter stated that the mother appeared to be under the influence of alcohol during the incident. The reporter believed the child may have been in the swimming pool for more than ten minutes before the child was discovered. The reporter stated the mother has been charged with homicide by child neglect.

Date Investigation Initiated: 7/24/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect by the mother.

Date of Case Decision: 8/15/12

Basis for Case Decision: The Department of Social Services has indicated this case for physical neglect of the deceased child and two siblings because the mother failed to provide the children with supervision appropriate their age and development. The lack of supervision contributed to a minor child drowning in a swimming pool. The investigation also revealed that the mother appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and was charged with homicide by child neglect.

The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality

The agency developed a Safety Plan. The Safety Plan stated the father of the deceased child is the protector for the minor children. The minor children will be properly supervised at all times and will not be allowed around the pool without adult supervision. No one will consume alcohol or illegal drugs. Both parents will submit to alcohol and drug screens. The mother will be supervised at all times and will have no overnight visits with the children. The paternal grandmother agreed to be the supervisor while the father was at work. The family had a pool cover installed and secured. Extra locks were placed on all doors to provide further security.

SCDSS provided a referral to a counseling assessment, substance abuse treatment, random drug testing, parenting classes, and family counseling to the mother.

The family completed the goals of the treatment plan. The case closed on 3/26/13.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information contained in unfounded reports.

This family had no prior child protective services history.